

NOTE

Homonymy in the Coccinellidae (Coleoptera), or Something Fishy About
Pseudoscymnus Chapin

Edward Chapin (1962) discovered some anomalous characters in certain species of *Scymnus* from Japan while preparing a report on the lady beetles (Coccinellidae) of Micronesia. The species in question possess true trimerous tarsi and reduced antennae (only nine antennomeres) terminating in extraordinarily long setae. Chapin proposed the new genus *Pseudoscymnus* for these unusual lady beetles, based on *Scymnus hareja* Weise (type species) and five other species—*S. kurohime* Miyatake, *S. seboshii* Ohta, *S. sylvaticus* Lewis, *S. pilicrepus* Lewis and *S. quinquepunctatus* Weise—the last four included tentatively.

In the decades that followed Chapin's contribution, numerous additional species have been added to the genus, including the delightfully sibilant *Pseudoscymnus tsugae* Sasaji and McClure 1997, a Japanese species which has been introduced for control of woolly hemlock adelgid, *Adelges tsugae* Annand, in the eastern United States (McClure and Cheah, in press). Unfortunately, the name *Pseudoscymnus* Chapin is a junior homonym of *Pseudoscymnus* Herre 1935 (Vandenberg 2002). Herre's (1935) usage of the name for a genus of kitefin shark (Squaliformes: Dalatiidae) predates Chapin's by more than a quarter century (Mould 1999) and therefore has priority according to article 52.3 of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN) (International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature 1999).

***Sasajiscymnus* Vandenberg, new name**

Pseudoscymnus Chapin 1962: 50 (Type species: *Scymnus hareja* Weise 1879) (not Herre 1935, type *P. boshuensis* Herre).

Type species.—*Scymnus hareja* Weise 1879 (according to article 72.7 of the ICZN 1999).

Etymology.—The replacement name is composed of Sasaji + *Scymnus* (= a young animal, cub, whelp) masculine, and is dedicated to Hiroyuki Sasaji, a leading specialist in lady beetle systematics and an inspiration to all who wish to understand the evolution and diversity of this important group.

Remarks.—In accordance with articles 60.3 and 72.7 of the ICZN (1999), I propose *Sasajiscymnus* as a replacement name and objective synonym of *Pseudoscymnus* Chapin. The more than 50 named species (Yu and Montgomery 2000) currently considered to be in the genus *Pseudoscymnus* Chapin are hereby transferred to *Sasajiscymnus*. To maintain brevity, only the following **new combinations** are proposed herein: *Sasajiscymnus tsugae* (Sasaji and McClure), *S. kurohime* (Miyatake), *S. seboshii* (Ohta), *S. sylvaticus* (Lewis), *S. pilicrepus* (Lewis) and *S. quinquepunctatus* (Weise).

It is interesting to note that the name *Scymnus* also has entered into homonymy. It has been proposed at least twice as a generic name for a shark (*Scymnus* Cuvier 1816, type *Squalus americanus* Gmelin 1789, and *Scymnus* Quoy and Gaimard 1824, type *Scymnus brasiliensis* Quoy and Gaimard 1824), but senior status is held by the coccinellid genus *Scymnus* Kugelann 1794 (type *Scymnus nigrinus* Kugelann 1794, by subsequent designation of Korschefsky (1931)). Likewise, the binomial *Scymnus brasiliensis* appears as both a shark (*Scymnus brasiliensis* Quoy and Gaimard 1824, above, presently classified in *Isistius*) and as a lady beetle (*Scymnus brasiliensis* Weise 1929, presently regarded as a

junior synonym of *Diomus seminulus* (Mulsant 1850) (Gordon 1999). According to Article 57.8.1 of the ICZN (1999), such homonymy between identical species-group names in combination with homonymous generic names established for different nominal genera is to be disregarded.

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